

Dear Sir

B 12. 146
Hewingson Nov 29. 1778.

I have sent you three Copies of a long Letter dated Nov 29
and as you have doubtless received one or other of them I think it needless to send another.
I have not had the pleasure of a line from you or any other of my American Friends for
acquaintance for upwards of a Twelvemonth past. A few Days ago I accidentally met
with a Capt. Russ' Wife formerly Townham's Daughter to Mr. Townham Lawyer at
Newbury Port her Husband formerly lived in a House belonging to Mr. Theophilus Russell
Merchant late of Charleston he is now employed in the Transport Service and just arrived
from New York with his Wife she informs me Mr. Russell and Family were well when
she was at Boston a few Months past and that she was intimately acquainted with
Col. Carey and Lady who she informs me still lived at my House and I was glad to hear
by her that my House Gardens &c were in good order considering I am quite particular
after you and the rest of my Medford Friends but she could not give me any account as
she said she had not the pleasure of an acquaintance with you which I was very sorry for
as it would have given me great satisfaction to have heard concerning you Mr. Willis
and my other Medford Friends I wish you and him had known of her coming as I doubt
not you both would have been glad of so good an opportunity to have met my. I was
to find by your last Letter that my Friend Mr. Will was sick but hope by this time he has
recovered his Health may make my Respects to him and tell him I hope both our Lines
will be spared that we may meet again in this World but if not in a better. I rejoice
to hear that my Friends Dr. Appleton and Dr. Wentworth are living and in good Health
I wish them the continuance of it for many Years. I intended going to the West Indies
ever since I have been ill to visit the small Islands I have there which is necessary and
was the very first thing that brought me from New England this by repeated sickness
I have been disappointed going there and have been obliged to let the Season run out
which has three Years longer the at considerable loss because my Health would not
admit of my going so that I now hope I shall have nothing to oblige me to go I shall en-
deavour to leave England if I should live till the latter end of April or beginning of
May if my Physician thinks I can bear the fatigue of a Voyage and come to Newbury
so that I am in hopes please God I live to see you and the rest of my Friends at Medford
and Boston the latter end of next Summer in the mean while I should be very glad you
would present my Duty to my Uncle Saml. Royall and my Aunt the Widow of Jacob
Royall Esq. with 20 Guineas apiece or the value of it at least to assist them those hard
times I wish it was in my power to have given them double the sum I should be glad to
know how they do and my Cousin Mr. Colburn. The Mr. Hunt informs me she has deli-
vered to you the Two handled Silver Cup and a Dozen of Tea spoons Tong and Shaver
the Silver Cup I should be glad you would present to the Church of Medford and beg
their acceptance of as a token of Respect and the Spoon I have left in my Will to
your Daughter as a token of Respect. I hope it will not be long before I am favoured
with a Line from you the your Letter be ever so short and just acquaint me concern-
ing my Farms at Medford Watford and Bristol and of all other my Affairs com-
mitted to you and Mr. Willis shall care the same the less anxious about them being well
assured both of you will do the utmost in your power to serve my Interest but as I have
wrote you a fully before shall only add that when I last heard from you Mr. Hunt was at
Philadelphia and was in hopes soon to be able to return to Medford I should be glad
you would acquaint me where he now is if he is returned to Medford be obliged to
give my Respects to him and tell him I shall be very happy to receive a Line
from

from him as I have a very great esteem for him not only for your sake but his own. I give you joy on the Marriage of your Daughter with Mr. Hall and hope they will be happy in each other as I think she is a very valuable young Lady. I beg you would give my Respects to them. I hope my Friends Mr. Cook & Mr. Attham and Mr. Street enjoy their Healths as I have wrote them many Letters should be glad of a few Lines from them to know how they do. Please to inform Mr. Hall of Brooklyn that her Husband and Son are well & saw them and Mr. Drakle Esq. a little time past. If you have an opportunity be please to give my Respects to old Lady Popham her Daughter Mr. Sparhawk and to Nathaniel Sparhawk Esq. of Salem and to Doct. Jarvis of Boston and Lady and let them know their Friends here are all well. I shall conclude with my respectful Compl^{ts} to your Lady your Father Hall and Family your Brother Mr. Willis Hall Mr. Brooks Mr. Benj. Hall Mr. Bishop & Mr. Cogswell Mr. Joshua Simons and all other. Bedford Friends remain

Dear Sir

Your Sincere Friend and Adm^r

Dear Sir

Hensington March 26: 1779

The preceding is Copy of what I wrote to you of the 1st of November last by John Williams Esq. I sent Letters by him to Mr. Hall and my other Friends since which I had the pleasure of receiving your very kind Letter dated the 22: October I must repeat my acknowledgements to you and Mr. Hall for the great Care and attention you have shewn to the Trust I have put into your Hands from such Proofs of your Friendship I cannot doubt of your continued and unremitting endeavours at promoting in every practicable way my Interest and I am yet in hopes that my Health may be restored in such a measure that I may be enabled to return to my Country in the course of next Summer when I may not only thank you in Person but amply reward you both for such faithful and meritorious services. It bears exceedingly hard upon my Mind and I do not know but it is partly the cause of the continuance of my ill Health that my Countrymen should have proceeded with so much rigor against me as to sequester my Estate in the manner you say they have done. To do it so early as an Absentee without any imputation of Guilt I consider as very unkind. During the whole course of my Political Life from the first time I had the Honor of a seat in the General Assembly in the Year 1743 to the time of the present troubles and even from the commencement of the present troubles in the Year 1765 to the time of my Resignation of my Seat at the Bar in the Year 1774. ^{in certain no can} I ~~can~~ say with truth and justice that I never voted for or advised anything that was prejudicial to the Interest of my Country and I will also defy any one to say that since I left America I have said or done or insinuated anything to their Disadvantage my endeavor has been in this manner to preserve an entire inoffensive Character to both Parties & the Testimony of which when I was appointed a Mandamus Councillor I refused accepting it without taking any time to consider of it and now to be included amongst many Men whom my Country considers as their greatest Enemies is very shocking to me and lays very near my Heart so as to affect my whole Constitution I should have endeavored to have returned last Spring had my Health admitted of it but I was in such a State of Health I durst not venture. If I have invariably done my Duty to my Country in the Trust that was for so many Years reposed in me as I can call God and my own Conscience to witness I have to the best of my Ability such faithful services deserve at least some Testimonies of Gratitude but to forget all these

services

services and merely for leaving the Province when the prevailing Tumults and Commotions there were too great for my infirm state of Health to sustain and when my Business called me out of the Province and I should have gone had these troubles never happened for all my things were packed up with that intention and I went to Boston after attending the Public Worship on the Lord's Day Evening before the Battle of Lexington to take leave of my Children and Friends intending to have gone from thence to Salem to embark on board Capt. Mackay for Antigua but unfortunately staid at Boston Two or Three Days and Dined with the Hon^{ble} Capt. Oving the very Day the Battle happened after which it was impossible to get out of Town for there were orders to prevent anyone coming in or going out upon which I thought it most prudent as my affairs called me to the West Indies and a good opportunity offering I went to Halifax expecting there to meet with a vessel bound to the West Indies but was disappointed as I before wrote you which Letters I now refer you to and to proceed against me in the manner I have been proceeding against to sequester my Estate and to cast me off in my Age and Infirmitie I may seem to me to discover the greatest Degree of unkindness. I recommend it to you and M^r Hall as my Attornies to apply for M^r Dana or some other good Lawyer who understands the form and method of such applications to the General Court and give him a handsome Fee of Six Hundred Sterling or more if necessary to draft for you and M^r Hall to sign a suitable Petition or Memorial in my Name to the General Assembly and to advise a list and carry the affair through the Court for you setting forth the services I have formerly done the Province in my Legislative Capacity as there are doubtless numbers at the Board who sat with me many years and knew my conduct all along such as the Hon^{ble} M^r Powell M^r Ward M^r Dexter M^r Greenleaf M^r Pibble M^r Phillips M^r Leonard &c &c &c the true cause of my leaving the Province at the commencement of the War which was for the want of Health and the perfectly innocent Conduct I have observed since and that I have not only shown my Compassion for the Poor American Prisoners but my regard to my Country by giving last year to M^r Goddington the Treasurer of the Society for that purpose Six Guineas towards their Relief and I wish it had been in my Power to have given Ten times as much and that I have occasionally assisted my Countrymen here who asked assistance of me by giving some a Guinea and some Two Guineas as their necessities require and I will spare the Money. And pray that the Act so far as relates to me may be repealed and that you as my Attornies may be permitted to take Possession of the Charge I have committed to my Attornies your Lands and the Rents and Issues of my Estate be appropriated to my use I have no doubt on such a Representation of my true Character and such a Paper that Relief will be obtained you may also mention in the Memorial if you please that it is my purpose and intention as soon as my Health will permit to return and reside in America M^r Drakke by whom this comes will be able to inform you of my state of Health. I have heard since I received your Letter by M^r Gray that there is an Act lately past in the Assembly that any Person who has left the Massachusetts without leave and come to Great Britain who shall presume to return without leave from the General Assembly to any part of the Massachusetts shall be sent back to the King's Troops if they are able

able at their own expence if not to be paid by the Public and if ever they return again they
 are to be deemed to forfeit their lives and to suffer Death without benefit of Clergy this I don't
 believe as I have never seen the Act tho I have made strict inquiry after it but have
 not yet been able to obtain it and what is very surprising Mr Gray tells me my name
 is mentioned in the Act likewise which I can scarcely believe as I had done every thing
 in my power to serve the Province and nothing but Business and my ill state of Health
 made me leave it as I formerly wrote you which Letter I now refer you to and which
 I beg you will make use of in your Edition if this be true I beg you will likewise let me
 that I may have liberty to return Home I should have ventured Home now with Mr
 Brattle but my Health will not admit of it but I am in hopes as the Summer comes
 on I shall be much better. Please to communicate this Letter to Mr Hale and let him
 I beg he will act in conjunction with you in a proper application to the General Court
 and acquaint him I have wrote him by this opportunity. I wrote you last spring of
 a Donation I had given the College and the Town of Medford in my Will now you will
 please to acquaint the Overseers of the College and the Town of Medford of what I have
 done and that if it would be more agreeable to them I would send them over a Deed of
 Gift of these Tracts of Land for the use aforesaid I have nothing more particu-
 lar to say or to direct concerning my affairs than what I have mentioned in the
 preceding Letter my entire confidence is in you two that you will do every thing
 that you think will best promote my Interest I am with sincere Esteem and
 great Gratitude

Dear Sir

I. Please to
 make me Respects to
 Mr. Twiss and the rest of
 my Medford Friends

Yours

Most obliged and most obed^t Slave

J. Royall